

REMARKS

Information Disclosure Statement:

An Information Disclosure Statement was filed in this application on July 25, 2002. A copy of the Information Disclosure Statement and a Postcard receipt indicating receipt thereof by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office are attached. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the information submitted therein and to return an initialed copy of the Information Disclosure Citation Form to Applicants' attorney.

Art Rejection:

Claims 1-5, 7-17, and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,859,712, hereinafter *Kim*. The Examiner has also indicated that claims 6 and 18 contain allowable subject matter.

In response to the rejection of claims 1-5, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 6. Accordingly, claims 1-5 should now be in condition for allowance, and claim 6 has been cancelled to avoid duplication with amended claim 1.

Claims 7-10 define an image processing apparatus that includes a sensor disposed linearly in a primary scanning direction, an optical system for projecting light from the image onto the sensor, and a correction portion for correcting a misregistration of the colors in the primary scanning direction due to a chromatic aberration of the optical system, the correction portion performing a misregistration correction for each of the plural areas divided in the primary scanning direction. It is important to note that the correction portion corrects a misregistration of the colors in the primary scanning direction.

In the Official Action, reference is made to column 7, lines 28-65 of *Kim*. However, the description of this part of the reference is about positions of the line sensors of R, G, and B colors in the secondary scanning direction. There is no description about color deviation in the primary scanning direction. Accordingly, *Kim* does not teach or suggest the subject matter of claims 7-10.

With regard to the rejection of claim 11, that claim has been amended to clarify the differences between the subject matter therein and the prior art. Specifically, the plurality of interline correction portions are more clearly defined such that each of the interline correction portions uses a different reference color for correcting a misregistration among the element arrays of the image sensor in the secondary scanning direction and each of the interline correction portions produces plural sets of image data. For purposes of explanation and not limitation, the Examiner's attention is directed to Figure 12, which shows an embodiment of the invention set forth in claim 11. Note that claim 11 is not limited to the embodiment illustrated in Figure 12. Specifically, each of the interline correction portions are illustrated as elements 15R, 15G, 15B, wherein each of the interline correction portions produces plural sets of image data R, G, and B. This structure is not taught or suggested by *Kim*.

Similar amendments have been made to independent claim 12. Accordingly, claims 11 and 12 are now clearly patentable over *Kim*.

Claim 13 has been amended to clarify that the density correction portion for performing correction by increasing a density of image data of at least one wavelength component among image data of plural wavelength components that constitute a present pixel when the present pixel is on a fine line on the basis of a

signal from the fine line decision portion so as to reduce a difference between densities of image data of the plural wavelength components that constitute the present pixel. Support for the amendments may be found at page 53, lines 22-30; page 54, line 22 through page 55, line 2; page 57, line 24 through page 58, lines 8, and Figure 33.

As amended, claim 13, and dependent claims 14-19, clearly distinguish over *Kim*. The portions of the *Kim* patent cited by the Examiner with regard to claims 13-19 do not teach or suggest detecting a fine line. In addition, there is no description about increasing the density of the wavelength component for a fine line part or about discriminating between a chromatic color and an achromatic color in *Kim*. Accordingly, claim 13, and dependent claims 14-19 are also clearly patentable over *Kim*.

To further define the protection to which Applicants are entitled, new claims 20-21 are submitted herewith. The new claims depend from claim 11, and are thus also patentable over the applied prior art at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 11.

Also submitted herewith is another Information Disclosure Statement submitting a reference that was recently cited in a corresponding Japanese patent application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the new reference, together with the reference submitted with the third Information Disclosure Statement.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this Amendment, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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